IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 26, and 27, cancel claims 13-25 without prejudice and disclaimer, and add new claims 28-52.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

~~requesting establishment of a call between a first terminal and a second terminal;~~

receiving a request for ascertaining whether any costs generated by at least one accounting clients in a network, ~~and~~ which are associated with a request for establishing a ~~the~~ call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, receiving a request for establishing an accounting session between an accounting server and the at least one accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit~~,~~;

establishing the accounting session and ~~being~~ allocating~~ed~~ an accounting session identifier to the accounting session;

~~establishing the call with the second terminal;~~

~~sending~~ receiving charging update data ~~from the accounting client to~~ at the accounting server from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals; and

collating the charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the

call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of accounting clients that generate costs in relation to the call, the method further comprising:

establishing accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and the accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established;

~~sending~~ receiving charging update data from each of the accounting clients to the accounting server during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier; and

collating the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting server is located in a home network of the first terminal.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

sService gGeneral pPacket rRadio sService sSupport nNode/ gGateway gGeneral pPacket rRadio sService sSupport nNode;

sServing cCall sService cControl fFunction/pProxy cCall sService cControl fFunction; and

a network application server.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a sSession iInitiation pProtocol message sent from the first terminal.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server via a dDiameter protocol message.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the charging update data is ~~sent~~ received from each accounting client to the accounting ~~client~~ server in response to a dDiameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein in response to receiving a request for ascertaining whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit ~~includes~~ the method further comprises looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network is an internet protocol network.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the network is a universal mobile telecommunications system network.

13-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a first receiver configured to receive a request for ascertaining whether any costs are generated by at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request for establishing a call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

a second receiver ~~an establishing unit~~ configured to receive a request to establish an accounting session with ~~an~~ the at least one accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit during ~~a~~ the call;~~,~~

an establishing unit configured to establish the accounting session ~~being~~ and to allocate~~d~~ an accounting session identifier to the accounting session;

a third receiver configured to receive charging update data from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals; and

a collating unit configured to collate the charging update data based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver ~~an establishing unit~~ configured to receive a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit ~~during~~ associated with a request for establishing a call between a first and second terminal;~~,~~

an establishing unit configured to establish, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier, and

a transmitter configured to send charging update data to the accounting server during ~~a~~ the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating

of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

28. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein

the at least one accounting client is a plurality of accounting clients generate costs in relation to the call,

the establishing unit is further configured to establish accounting sessions between each respective accounting client and an accounting server, each of the accounting sessions being allocated a common accounting session identifier associated with the call to be established,

each of the accounting clients is configured to send charging update data during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier; and

the accounting server is configured to collate the charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call.

29. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein each accounting client takes the form of one of the following network entities:

service general packet radio service support node/ gateway general packet radio service support node,

serving call service control function/proxy call service control function, and

a network application server.

30. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

31. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message.

32. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the charging update data is received from the accounting clients at an accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the charging update data is received from each accounting client to the accounting server in response to a diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

35. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the apparatus is configured to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

36. (New) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the accounting server is located in a home network of a first terminal for the call.

37. (New) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call.

38. (New) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message sent from a first terminal.

39. (New) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the charging update data is sent to the accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

40. (New) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the charging update data is sent to the accounting server in response to a diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

41. (New) An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the accounting server issues the update requests periodically.

42. (New) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the apparatus is configured to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

43. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

receiving a request for ascertaining whether any costs generated by at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request for establishing a call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

in the event some or all of the costs are to be charged against prepaid credit, receiving a request for establishing an accounting session between an accounting server and the accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against the prepaid credit;

establishing the accounting session and allocating an accounting session identifier to the accounting session;

receiving charging update data at the accounting server from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals; and

collating the charging update data in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

44. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

first receiving means for receiving a request for ascertaining whether any costs are generated by at least one accounting client in a network, which are associated with a request for establishing a call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against prepaid credit;

second receiving means for receiving a request to establish an accounting session with the at least one accounting client that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit during the call;

establishing means for establishing the accounting session and for allocating an accounting session identifier to the accounting session;

third receiving means for receiving charging update data from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals; and

collating means for collating the charging update data based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

45. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request for establishing a call between a first and second terminal;

establishing means for establishing, the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier, and

transmitting means for sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

46. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

receiving a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request for establishing a call between a first and second terminal;

establishing the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier, and

sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

47. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server that will generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request for establishing a call between a first and second terminal;

establishing the accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier, and

sending charging update data to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

48. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein in response to receiving the request for ascertaining, transmitting a response including an indication that costs generated by accounting clients in a network associated with a request for establishing a call between a first and second terminal are to be charged against prepaid credit.

49. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the apparatus comprises a transmitter configured to transmit a response including an indication that costs generated by accounting clients in a network associated with a request for establishing a

call between a first and second terminal are to be charged against prepaid credit in response to the request for ascertaining.

50. (New) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call.

51. (New) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein update requests are received from the accounting server periodically.

52. (New) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the charging update data is sent to the accounting server via a diameter protocol message.